John Meyer, MT Bar #11206 P.O. Box 412 Bozeman, MT 59771 Ph: (406) 546-0149 John@cottonwoodlaw.org

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA BUTTE DIVISION

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)
) Case No. 2:18-CV-0002-BMM
) PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 1
) TEAINTH' SEATHBITT
)
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)
)

## Case 2:18-cv-00002-BMM Document 41-1 Filed 09/19/18 Page 2 of 23



John -

Can we get an extension of time until August 15, 2018 to respond to Plaintiff's first discovery requests to Big Sky Resort, including any requests for admission?

We would like to take your deposition. Please let us know some dates you are available in late July and August for a deposition.

Thanks, Kelsey

KELSEY E. BUNKERS

1915 SOUTH 19th AVENUE

P.O. Box 10969

BOZEMAN, MT 59719

kbunkers@crowleyfleck.com

VOICE 406.522.4524 FAX 406.556.1433

www.crowleyfleck.com



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## Case 2:18-cv-00002-BMM Document 41-1 Filed 09/19/18 Page 3 of 23

John Meyer

Re: Meyer v. Big Sky - Discovery

To: Kelsey Bunkers, Cc: Ian McIntosh



#### Hi Kelsey,

No problem on the extension.

I am not available for a deposition until mid-October.

I am getting married September 9th and I will not allow this abuse of process lawsuit to throw that into the air again.

Thank you for understanding.

John Meyer Executive Director & General Counsel Cottonwood Environmental Law Center P.O. Box 412 Bozeman, MT 59771 John@Cottonwoodlaw.org (406) 546-0149

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## Case 2:18-cv-00002-BMM Document 41-1 Filed 09/19/18 Page 4 of 23

**Kelsey Bunkers** 

July 18, 2018 at 5:10 PM

**Details** 

RE: Meyer v. Big Sky - Discovery To: John Meyer, Cc: Ian McIntosh

New contact info found in this email: Kelsey Bunkers kbunkers@crowleyfleck.com

add...

John -

Thanks for the extension.

We are not going to wait for 3 months (mid-October) to take your deposition. Please provide us some dates you are available in late July and August for a deposition or we will be forced to unilaterally pick a date and set the deposition. If you do not want to be deposed in this matter, you can simply dismiss the lawsuit. This is not an abuse of process lawsuit. You chose to file the lawsuit and the abuse of process claim was only asserted as a counterclaim to the allegations you made.

Thanks, Kelsey

#### **KELSEY E. BUNKERS**

1915 SOUTH 19th AVENUE P.O. Box 10969 BOZEMAN, MT 59719 kbunkers@crowleyfleck.com VOICE 406.522.4524 FAX 406.556.1433 www.crowleyfleck.com



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## Case 2:18-cv-00002-BMM Document 41-1 Filed 09/19/18 Page 5 of 23

John Meyer

Meyer v. Big Sky (2:18-cv-00002-BMM)

To: Ian McIntosh, Mac Morris, kelsey Bunkers



#### Counsel:

I hope this finds you well.

I have attached a request for you to complete discovery in the above-referenced case.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,



Rule 37(a)(4) Request.pdf

John Meyer
Executive Director & General Counsel
Cottonwood Environmental Law Center
P.O. Box 412 Bozeman, MT 59771
John@Cottonwoodlaw.org
(406) 546-0149

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# John Meyer P.O. Box 412 Bozeman, MT 59771 John@cottonwoodlaw.org | (406) 546-0149

To: Ian McIntosh, Kelsey Bunkers, Mac Morris Re: *Meyer v. Big Sky* (2:18-cv-0002-BMM)

September 13, 2018

#### Counsel:

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37(a)(4), I hereby request that you completely respond to my discovery request. In particular, I request that you fulfill the following requests:

**INTERROGATORY NO. 1:** If Big Sky Resort, or anyone acting on its behalf, had any conversations with any newspaper, radio, or media outlet regarding the incident that formed the basis for this lawsuit, please identify each person that was present at the time of the conversation, the location of the conversation, the date of the conversation, and give a complete description of each conversation in as much detail as can be recalled.

## **ANSWER:**

. . . Big Sky may have provided a statement. Big Sky is looking for any statement it may have provided and will produce it if it is located. . .

<u>REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION NO. 9</u>: Please produce all documents, including but not limited to emails, hand-written notes, notices, complaints, grievances, lawsuits, and settlements, that have been submitted to, or filed against, Big Sky Resort regarding:

- a. Lack of signs, gates, fences, or other safety equipment used to mark ski terrain.
- b. Unsafe or potentially unsafe ski terrain or conditions under or near the Challenger ski lift.
- c. Lack of heat in ski shacks or operating rooms for ski patrol.
- d. Unsafe working conditions.
- e. Inadequate training for any employee, ex-employee, contractor, former contractor,

volunteer or former volunteer.

**RESPONSE:** Big Sky objects to this Request . . . These topics have no bearing on Plaintiff's allegations in this lawsuit and are merely a fishing expedition . . .

"[D]iscovery rules are to be accorded a broad and liberal treatment. No longer can the time-honored cry of 'fishing expedition' serve to preclude a party from inquiring into the facts underlying his opponent's case." *Hickman v. Taylor*, 329 U.S. 495, 507 (1947). As the Supreme Court has noted,

One of the chief arguments against the 'fishing expedition' objection is the idea that discovery is mutual—that while a party may have to disclose his case, he can at the same time tie his opponent down to a definite position.

Hickman, 329 U.S. at 507 n.8 (citation omitted).

"Most often, it is after the commencement of litigation that parties obtain the fullest possible knowledge of the issues and facts of their case." *In re Perez*, 749 F.3d 849, 856 (9th Cir. 2014) (internal quotations and citations omitted).

Relevance for purposes of discovery is defined very broadly. *Garneau v. City of Seattle*, 147 F.3d 802, 812 (9th Cir. 1998) (citation omitted). "Relevancy in the discovery context has been construed broadly to encompass any matter that bears on, or that reasonably could lead to other matters that bear on, any issue that is in the case." *Town v. Fode*, 2010 WL 2671581 at \*1 (D. Mont. June 30, 2010). "Information is relevant to the subject matter if it might reasonably assist a party in evaluating the case, preparing for trial or facilitating settlement." *Hickman*, 329 U.S. at 506-507.

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If you do not provide me with the requested information by September 20, 2018, I will be forced to file a motion to compel and request fees.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

/s/ John Meyer JOHN MEYER

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#### John -

We will supplement Big Sky's repose to Interrogatory No. 1. I am working out of town late next week, so we will not be able to supplement by September 20, but we will provide a supplemental response as soon as possible.

As to Request for Production No. 9, your letter does not explain why you believe Big Sky's discovery response is insufficient or why you believe the requested information is relevant. Instead, your letter simply recites general discovery principals, which does not satisfy your duty to meet and confer pursuant to Local Rule 26.3(c). Please explain why you believe Big Sky's discovery response is insufficient and why you believe the requested information is relevant, and we will consider your position.

Ian McIntosh Crowley Fleck PLLP 1915 S. 19th Ave Bozeman, MT 59718

Direct Line: (406)522-4521 imcintosh@crowleyfleck.com



#### Counsel:

Do you oppose a motion to compel the supplemental documents from Interrogatory Number 1 and Request for Production Number 9 by Thursday, September 20th?

Thank you,

John Meyer
Executive Director & General Counsel
Cottonwood Environmental Law Center
P.O. Box 412 Bozeman, MT 59771
John@Cottonwoodlaw.org
(406) 546-0149

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## Case 2:18-cv-00002-BMM Document 41-1 Filed 09/19/18 Page 10 of 23

Ian McIntosh

RE: Meyer v. Big Sky (2:18-cv-00002-BMM)

To: John Meyer, Cc: Mac Morris, Kelsey Bunkers

September 14, 2018 at 11:23 AM

**Details** 



New contact info found in this email: lan McIntosh imcintosh@crowleyfleck.com

add...

 $(\times)$ 

John -

Your email below does not make sense. What are you asking?

We already responded to your letter about the two discovery requests mentioned below. For your convenience, our response email is enclosed again with this email. Please review the enclosed email and respond.

Ian McIntosh Crowley Fleck PLLP 1915 S. 19th Ave Bozeman, MT 59718

★ John Meyer



Re: Meyer v. Big Sky (2:18-cv-00002-BMM)

To: Ian McIntosh, Cc: Mac Morris, Kelsey Bunkers

September 14, 2018 at 11:41 AM **Details** 



Counsel:

I am asking that you supplement the discovery by next Thursday.

I have attached a letter that more thoroughly addresses why.

Thank you,



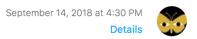
9/14/18 Request.pdf

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#### John Meyer

Re: Meyer v. Big Sky (2:18-cv-00002-BMM)

To: Ian McIntosh, Cc: Mac Morris, Kelsey Bunkers



#### Counsel:

I wanted to follow up on our last correspondence and determine whether Defendant will supplement the two requests by next Thursday.

I believe that my latest letter satisfies the Local Rule 26.3(c) requirement to confer with you in a detailed, comprehensive correspondence. As I stated in my letter, I believe the requested items "might reasonably assist me in evaluating the case, preparing for trial or facilitating settlement."

If I do not hear from you by 5 pm I will notify the Court that you did not respond to whether you fill the request by next Thursday and assume you oppose my filing a motion to compel.

Have a great weekend.

# John Meyer P.O. Box 412 Bozeman, MT 59771 John@cottonwoodlaw.org | (406) 546-0149

To: Ian McIntosh, Kelsey Bunkers, Mac Morris Re: *Meyer v. Big Sky* (2:18-cv-0002-BMM)

September 14, 2018

### Counsel:

I am writing in regards to my letter dated September 13, 2018, in which I requested that Defendant fill my original discovery request.

In particular, I asked:

**INTERROGATORY NO. 1:** If Big Sky Resort, or anyone acting on its behalf, had any conversations with any newspaper, radio, or media outlet regarding the incident that formed the basis for this lawsuit, please identify each person that was present at the time of the conversation, the location of the conversation, the date of the conversation, and give a complete description of each conversation in as much detail as can be recalled.

You responded by stating that "Big Sky may have provided a statement. Big Sky is looking for any statement it may have provided and will produce it if it is located. . ."

On the morning of September 14, 2018, less than 12 hours after I requested that Defendant fill the request, you responded that the interrogatory will be supplemented. Your immediate response seems to indicate that you knew Big Sky provided a statement but were not going to produce it until I again requested the information.

Your response that you will not provide the documents within one week but will do so as soon as possible is unacceptable in light of the fact that we are already past the deadline which I agreed to extend to August 15, 2018. The documents may have been used as part of the response to media issues that were raised in Defendant's motion to dismiss, which was filed on August 15, 2018. Moreover, another attorney responded to the original discovery request and you have three attorneys of record listed.

If you do not provide me with the documents within one week I will be forced to file a motion to compel. If you would like, I can pick up the documents at your office Thursday afternoon to save postal resources and avoid any confusion regarding the mailbox rule again.

In my September 13<sup>th</sup> letter I also asked you to complete:

<u>REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION NO. 9</u>: Please produce all documents, including but not limited to emails, hand-written notes, notices, complaints, grievances, lawsuits, and settlements, that have been submitted to, or filed against, Big Sky Resort regarding:

- a. Lack of signs, gates, fences, or other safety equipment used to mark ski terrain.
- b. Unsafe or potentially unsafe ski terrain or conditions under or near the Challenger ski lift.
- c. Lack of heat in ski shacks or operating rooms for ski patrol.
- d. Unsafe working conditions.
- e. Inadequate training for any employee, ex-employee, contractor, former contractor, volunteer or former volunteer.

**RESPONSE:** Big Sky objects to this Request . . . These topics have no bearing on Plaintiff's allegations in this lawsuit and are merely a fishing expedition . . .

My September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 letter stated, in part:

"[D]iscovery rules are to be accorded a broad and liberal treatment. No longer can the time-honored cry of 'fishing expedition' serve to preclude a party from inquiring into the facts underlying his opponent's case." *Hickman v. Taylor*, 329 U.S. 495, 507 (1947)

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, you responded:

your letter does not explain why you believe Big Sky's discovery response is insufficient or why you believe the requested information is relevant. Instead, your letter simply recites general discovery principals, which does not satisfy your duty to meet and confer pursuant to Local Rule 26.3(c). Please explain why you believe Big Sky's discovery response is

insufficient and why you believe the requested information is relevant, and we will consider your position.

"Relevancy in the discovery context has been construed broadly to encompass any matter that bears on, or that reasonably could lead to other matters that bear on, any issue that is in the case." *Town v. Fode*, 2010 WL 2671581 at \*1 (D. Mont. June 30, 2010). The request for production is relevant because it "might reasonably assist me in evaluating the case, preparing for trial or facilitating settlement." *Hickman v. Taylor*, 329 U.S. 495, 506-507 (1947).

Please let me know whether you will complete the requests by Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. If not, please indicate whether you oppose a motion to compel.

Thank you for considering,

/s/ John Meyer JOHN MEYER

### Case 2:18-cv-00002-BMM Document 41-1 Filed 09/19/18 Page 15 of 23

Ian McIntosh

September 17, 2018 at 8:44 AM

Details



RE: Meyer v. Big Sky (2:18-cv-00002-BMM) To: John Meyer, Cc: Mac Morris, Kelsey Bunkers

New contact info found in this email: lan McIntosh imcintosh@crowleyfleck.com

add...



#### John -

As I have already told you, we will supplement our client's response to Interrogatory No. 1, but we cannot do so by Thursday. We can't supplement by Thursday because, as you have already been told, I am out of the office most of this week. In addition, our client contact at Big Sky that we need to speak to about the supplemental response is also out of the office.

Your wild speculation that our "immediate response seems to indicate that you knew Big Sky provided a statement but were not going to produce until I again requested the information" is wrong. Big Sky's supplemental response to Interrogatory No. 1 will describe communications Big Sky has had with the media after August 15. You were contacted by the same media outlet that contacted Big Sky, yet you have not supplemented your response to Big Sky's Request for Production No. 22 requesting all of your communications with the media. Please let us know when you will supplement your response to RFP 22.

You still have not explained why the information sought in RFP 9 to Big Sky is relevant to your claims. For example, if a ski patroller complained about lack of heat in a ski shack a year before your ski wreck, that complaint has nothing to do with your claim. Your request for this information was served for an improper purpose, to harass Big Sky and to abuse the legal process.

We cannot stop you from filing a motion to compel, but if you file such a motion we will demonstrate to the Judge your failure to comply with Local Rule 26.3(c), and we will seek our client's costs and attorneys' fees for having to respond to such a frivolous motion.

Ian McIntosh Crowley Fleck PLLP 1915 S. 19th Ave Bozeman, MT 59718

Direct Line: (406)522-4521 imcintosh@crowleyfleck.com **INTERROGATORY NO. 1:** If you, or anyone acting on your behalf, had any conversations with any employee or ex-employee of Big Sky or Boyne after December 11, 2015, please identify each person that was present at the time of the conversation, the location of the conversation, the date of the conversation, and give a complete description of each conversation in as much detail as you can recall.

## **ANSWER: See 000001-000005**

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION NO. 23: Please produce a complete copy of the article about this lawsuit that was submitted to the Outlaw magazine, and all of your comments and communications with the author of the article.

**RESPONSE:** To the best of Plaintiff's knowledge, no article about this lawsuit was ever submitted to Outlaw magazine.

Supposedly Explore Big Sky was going to run an article but the owner of the paper (the same owner of Outlaw magazine) pulled the article the night before it was printed. Plaintiff never saw the article that was to be printed.

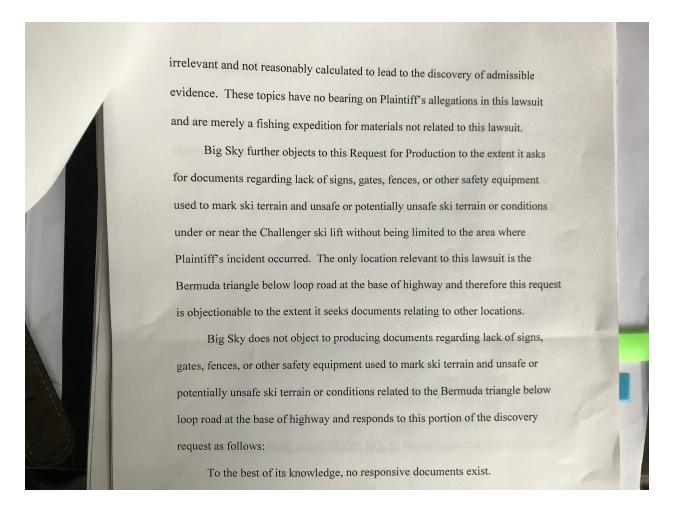
Amanda Eggert, who was with John Meyer the day of the incident, left Explore Big Sky shortly after the article was pulled. She did not write the article because she wanted to avoid any perceived conflicts of interest.

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION NO. 9: Please produce all documents, including but not limited to emails, hand-written notes, notices, complaints, grievances, lawsuits, and settlements, that have been submitted to, or filed against, Big Sky Resort regarding:

- a. Lack of signs, gates, fences, or other safety equipment used to mark ski terrain.
- b. Unsafe or potentially unsafe ski terrain or conditions under or near the Challenger ski lift.
- c. Lack of heat in ski shacks or operating rooms for ski patrol.
- d. Unsafe working conditions.
- e. Inadequate training for any employee, ex-employee, contractor, former contractor, volunteer or former volunteer.

**RESPONSE:** Big Sky objects to this Request for Production to the extent it seeks documents regarding lack of heat in ski shacks or operating rooms for ski patrol, unsafe working conditions, and inadequate training for any employee, exemployee, contractor, former contractor, volunteer or former volunteer as

Big Sky's Responses to Plaintiff's First Discovery Requests - 9



SKY 1 to BIG SKY 26. See also BIG SKY 147, which is produced with these discovery responses.

INTERROGATORY NO. 1: If Big Sky Resort, or anyone acting on its behalf, had any conversations with any newspaper, radio, or media outlet regarding the incident that formed the basis for this lawsuit, please identify each person that was present at the time of the conversation, the location of the conversation, the date of the conversation, and give a complete description of each conversation in as much detail as can be recalled.

ANSWER: David Madison from Lone Peak Lookout sent Chelsi Moy, Big Sky media contact, e-mails on November 21, 2017 and November 22, 2017, which are produced with these discovery responses as BIG SKY 148 to BIG SKY 149.

Big Sky also believes Amanda Eggert, Plaintiff's girlfriend, from Explore Big Sky

Big Sky's Responses to Plaintiff's First Discovery Requests – 2

contacted Chelsi Moy, Big Sky media contact, sometime in November or December 2017, asking for a statement regarding Plaintiff's incident, and Big Sky may have provided a statement. Big Sky is looking for any statement it may have provided and will produce it if it is located. On or about December 22, 2017, Big Sky was informed by Explore Big Sky that no article would be published. Big Sky also exchanged e-mails with Eric Ladd from Outlaw Partners in December 2017, which is produced with these discovery responses as BIG SKY 150 to BIG SKY 151.

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION NO. 2: Please produce all documents

Meeting between Taylor Middleton and John Meyer

Date: December 12, 2016

Location: Zocalo Coffee (Bozeman, MT)

Description of conversation:

Meyer and Middleton never discussed the ski accident that led to this lawsuit. Meyer and Middleton made small talk—Meyer asked Middleton if he had ever met Yvon Chouinard. Middleton said yes and said that Chouinard and Patagonia always position themselves as outsiders. The small talk ended. Meyer asked Middleton what it would cost to provide health care for seasonal employees. The two did some verbal math and determined it would cost about \$4 million/year, or \$10 more per lift ticket. Meyer asked Middleton if Big Sky would do it. Middleton told Meyer that he was a "big thinker." Middleton said he would get back to Meyer.

Date: December 7, 2017

Location: Compass Cafe (Big Sky, Montana)

Description of conversation:

Meyer and Middleton discussed Native Americans technology such as arrowheads and buffalo jump. Middleton talked about the benefits of technology, Meyer noted that rifles and horses led to the demise of tribal culture. Meyer noted the that Big Sky has the technology to provide for heated ski lifts, but does not provide its employees with health insurance.

Meyer asked Middleton if Big Sky would provide health care for its employees. Middleton asked how Meyer why health care. Meyer said that \$50 million is approximately the amount of damages he would seek. Meyer asked Middleton if he ever feels like he would like to but can't take care of members of his Tribe. Middleton said yes.

Middleton asked Meyer what happened. Meyer told Middleton outside of the café that the area where he was skiing was not marked and if the drop off had been marked he would not have gotten into the accident.

From: Eric Ladd [mailto:eric@theoutlawpartners.com]

Sent: Monday, December 25, 2017 3:43 PM

To: Middleton, Taylor < tmiddleton@bigskyresort.com>

Subject: Re: Quick call or meeting

Taylor - thank you and sorry we did not connect. Holidays got the best of my schedule.

We can connect after the new year.

In summary, I wanted to call and apologize for my team reaching out regarding the John Meyer situation, this was a mistake on my editors behalf. Amanda (editor) no longer works for Outlaw and at this time we do not deem John's suit news worthy, if this changes I will let you know.

Have a Happy Holidays and congrats on all the snow!

Eric

On Dec 22, 2017, at 1:29 PM, Middleton, Taylor <a href="mailto:straighten:com/bigskyresort.com/">straighten:com/</a> wrote:

Hi Eric

Hope you are well, I'd enjoy catching up. I can call you about 215 today or we can talk or meet Saturday or Monday. Let me know what is best for you.

Thank you. Taylor

On Dec 21, 2017, at 4:32 PM, Eric Ladd <a href="mailto:seric@theoutlawpartners.com">eric@theoutlawpartners.com</a> wrote:

Hello Taylor, congrats on the opening

I wanted to have a quick call or meeting with you regarding this lawsuit and John Meyer.

No story here or questions here, just wanted to update you on behalf on my company.

Thank you.

Eric Ladd

## CORS 2188 V-0000028 MM DOSUMABA43611 FHAE 008 1948 PARE 23 OF 23

406-570-0639 eric@theoutlawpartners.com www.outlaw.partners

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Boyne Resorts http://www.boyneresorts.com

Eric Ladd 406-570-0639 eric@theoutlawpartners.com www.outlaw.partners